investment details is posted on the SIA Website (http://www.indmin.nic.in) and also published in the monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, which is widely circulated to various establishments, inciuding the Parliament Library.

Trade gap

3674. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total turnover of exports and imports this year;

(b) the total value of the trade gap of imports over exports;

(c) the reasons for such a gap;

(d) what steps are being proposed to be taken to control this trade gap during the next financial year; and

(e) which areas of this trade needs more attention and the action being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) As per latest provisional data available from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, value of exports, imports and trade balance during April-Feb., 2001-02 are given as under:—

(In US $ billion)

Year	Exports	Imports	Trade Balance
2001-02 (April-Feb.)	39.75	46.52	(−) 6.77

(c) to (e) The trade gap for this year is very modest compared to the trade gap of US $ (−) 5976 million in 2000-01 and US $ (−) 12848 million of 1999-2000. Global economic slow down and the events of September 11 and its aftermath have resulted in lower merchandise trade world wide including India. However, in order to arrest the

declining exports several short term interventionist measures have been taken by the Government which include reduction in the export credit rate for both pre-shipment and post-shipment, special financial package to manufacturer exporters, extension of normal repatriation period upto 360 days and upward revision of Duty Drawback on a number of product groups, abolition of value caps in the case of DEPB for more than 400 export items. A medium term export strategy has been announced for the period 2002-07 which aims at achieving 1% of world exports by the year 2006-07. Besides these, Exim Policy for 2002-07 announced recently has also incorporated a number of measures to pro-actively promote exports which *inter alia* include permitting offshore Banking units in Special Economic Zones, transport subsidy for export of certain agricultural products, development of centres of export excellence, additional support for electronic hardware exports, further reduction in transaction cost etc.

Argentina under watch category

3675. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have kept Argentina under watch category due to its economic failure;

(b) if so, whether the current economic crisis in Argentina has affected the bilateral trade relations;

(c) whether banks have been issued any directions for issuing letter of credit to traders for export to that country; and

(d) if so, what other steps are being considered by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Bilateral trade is likely to be affected by the ongoing economic scenario of Argentina.